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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

This invention is directed to an optical pickup apparatus which includes a first laser source which emits a first beam, a second laser source which emits a second beam  
5 having a polarization plane substantially perpendicular to a polarization plane of the first beam, a polarization diffraction element which selectively diffracts one of the first beam and the second beam in accordance with polarized states thereof, and an objective lens which records and/or  
10 reproduces information by focusing the first beam which has passed through the polarization diffraction element onto an information recording surface of a first optical information recording medium, and records and/or reproduces  
15 information by focusing the second beam which has passed through the polarization diffraction element onto an information recording surface of a second optical information recording medium.